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## The Voice, March 1980: Volume 26, Issue 3

Dordt College

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## \$100,000 Goal Set For 25th Spring Debt Reduction Drive

Every spring, for as long as Dordt has been in existence, there has been a Spring Debt Reduction Drive. The funds raised in this drive are used solely to pay off loans and interest on the academic buildings on Dordt's campus. At present, these buildings are valued at almost \$6 million and the amount owed on them is \$825,000. Amortization and interest on these buildings is not provided for in the budget, and contributions to this campaign are the only means of repaying these loans. (The dormitories and dining hall are paid by the students in their room and board fees.)

This year, Dordt hopes to raise a total of \$100,000 for this purpose. Approximately \$18,000 is expected in miscellaneous gifts and funds, so the total amount hoped for is \$118,000.

To implement this campaign, Rev. Haan will be sending out a let-

ter to all members of Dordt's constituency. Every home receives a letter asking for assistance and a gift envelope to be used on the Sunday designated for the Spring Debt Reduction Drive, which this year is on March 30. The envelopes may also be sent to Dordt, if the contributor prefers. The churches that support Dordt are asked to promote this campaign in their bulletins and to designate the offering on March 30 for the Spring Debt Reduction Drive.

This drive is Dordt's only source of funds to reduce these debts owed on the academic buildings. Lyle Gritters, Vice-President for Development, commented on the drive: "We are dependent on lots of people doing whatever they can, whether the gifts are large or small. The key is participation and we hope that Dordt's loyal supporters will once again do what they can to help us reduce these debts."

## Dordt Student Body Loses Three Freshmen



Rita Vander Weele



Marjorie Vander Weide



Jim Van Drunen

The Dordt College community was shocked by a tragic plane crash on January 25 that took the lives of the pilot and three Dordt students. Those killed included Sioux Center natives Lesley Vander Weide, 29 and his wife, Marjorie, 26. Marj was the daughter of Sociology professor Rev. E.L.H. Taylor and a freshman at Dordt this year. The Vander Weides left behind their four children, Sherri, Daniel, Douglas, and Sheila.

Also killed were Rita Vander Weele, 18 and Jim Van Drunen, 18, both freshmen at Dordt. Rita and Jim were from the Chicago area and were flying home to attend the homecoming festivities of their alma mater Illiana Christian High School.

A memorial service for the three Dordt students was held on Tuesday, January 29, and Rev. Hulst addressed the student body with a meditation based on Psalm 115 and entitled, "Why Do the Nations Say 'Where Is Their God?'" He concluded his message with these words of comfort from Romans 8:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, . . . or peril, or sword? No, in these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, . . . nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

### ZUIDERVELD PERFORMS AT DORDT

On February 29, Rudy Zuiderveld presented a recital in the Dordt Chapel. Dr. Zuiderveld, who taught at Dordt from 1972-1975, is now assistant professor of music at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota, and is also organist of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Montevideo, Minnesota. This performance was the fourth in a series of dedicatory recitals given on Dordt's new Casavant tracker-action organ.

Zuiderveld performed Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in E-Flat Major* and also *The 94th Psalm, A Sonata for Organ in C Minor* by Julius Reubke. The highlight of the concert was the performance of the *Messe Solennelle* (Solemn Mass) by Louis Vierne. This work by the famous blind composer is arranged for choir and two organs, and Zuiderveld was assisted at the console by Dr. Joan Ringerwole, instructor of organ at Dordt. The choral part was performed by the Dordt College Concert Choir.



## From the President's Pen . . .

by Rev. B. J. Haan



### Reflecting Upon Dordt's 25th Anniversary

Preparations are being made for a meaningful celebration of Dordt's 25th anniversary. Already in the early stages the loving support of our people is evident. Among our staunchest backers throughout the entire history of Dordt is an elderly couple who has provided a considerable sum to help cover the anniversary costs. Furthermore, there are many others who have given their endorsement of the anniversary program by donating substantial amounts. Our people will be hearing more about our plans and the part they can play in this year of grateful celebration.

#### Dordt's Success, a Surprise(?)

Whatever the future may hold for Dordt College, no one can deny the incredible growth and development it has enjoyed under the blessings of the Lord. Central in these blessings has been the dedicated love and loyalty of God's people. To many people Dordt's success is, indeed, a big surprise. To others, who were part of the original planning and establishment of Dordt, the *measure* of success is a surprise, but the success itself is not. These men and women of vision deserve our finest commendations for they battled against formidable opposition. Many educators and clergymen, as well as others in our circles, predicted certain failure. They ridiculed, even scorned, the idea that the people in the "hinterlands" of denominational expertise could initiate (let alone keep alive) a truly viable, academically-qualified higher educational institution. Such pronouncements never unsettled the nerve of the "founding fathers." For they possessed an insight into kingdom needs and challenges and an uncanny awareness of the spiritual strengths, cultural potential, and material means of the people which enabled them to move forward with prayerful reliance upon the Lord.

#### The High Benefit From Close Ties With the People

When we look back over the years, Dordt obviously cannot claim freedom from

some unwise decisions and practices. Thankfully, Dordt has been very open with the people. Criticism and suggestions by well-meaning friends have always been carefully noted and given due attention. This type of relationship has been helpful in avoiding paths which do not best reflect our faith, and in correcting policies or activities which are not the most consistent with our Reformed principles. And this kind of openness with the people has not, as some have predicted, been a hindrance to the college in carrying out its distinctive and sometimes dangerous role as a community of scholars and as a culture-shaping institution. Many innovations and cultural advances which often are initially disturbing and threatening to many people originate in the college. However, our people have had the trust and patience to hear us out. If the college's actions could be justified as being truly reformational, truly consistent with Scriptural directives and our Reformed principles, the people, by and large, have been satisfied and supportive. And the college has shown a readiness to alter its course when responsible criticism is valid. That is why, in spite of the occasional attacks upon Dordt by a few extremists, its supporters have stood solidly and unshakably behind the college. They know the truth about their school.

#### Dordt's Unswerving Commitment to Biblical-Reformed Principles

For Dordt can indeed demonstrate a consistent commitment to biblical-reformed principles throughout these twenty-five years. This can be stated without fear of contradiction. Why? For the obvious reason that Dordt has been tried and tested on several occasions and has stood firmly on its basic philosophy of education. From its inception, Dordt has clearly defined its purpose. Anyone who knows Dordt's original statement will find that we have not departed from it. As the struggles came along, there were those who attempted to force their ideas and wishes upon the college, contrary to what Dordt professed and promoted. But such attempts have been

resisted; that which identified Dordt from the start *still* identifies Dordt. To the best of our ability and with God's help, we aim to remain true to the infallible Word of God as interpreted by our Reformed confessions and as reflected in the history of Reformed scholarship. And, as is said so often, Dordt is eager to exalt the Lordship of our Redeemer Jesus Christ, by applying this to all learning and life in the context of our biblical, Reformed covenantal, kingdom world-and-life perspective.

At this time of commemoration, our prayer is that Dordt may have the kind of leadership which will keep it faithful in the exercise of its distinctive purpose: the praise of our Almighty God.

### DORDT RECEIVES \$100,000 FROM VERMEER FOUNDATION

Dordt College has been awarded a grant of \$100,000 from the Vermeer Foundation of Pella, Iowa to be used in the 25th Anniversary Campaign of the college.

Dordt will be celebrating its 25th anniversary after the completion of this school year and will be conducting a 25th Anniversary fund raising program in conjunction with the anniversary. The objective of the campaign will be to raise money for developing the new Dordt College farm and for facilities and equipment for the new Engineering Program.

A challenge goal of \$1 million has been set for the campaign.

### Estate Gifts

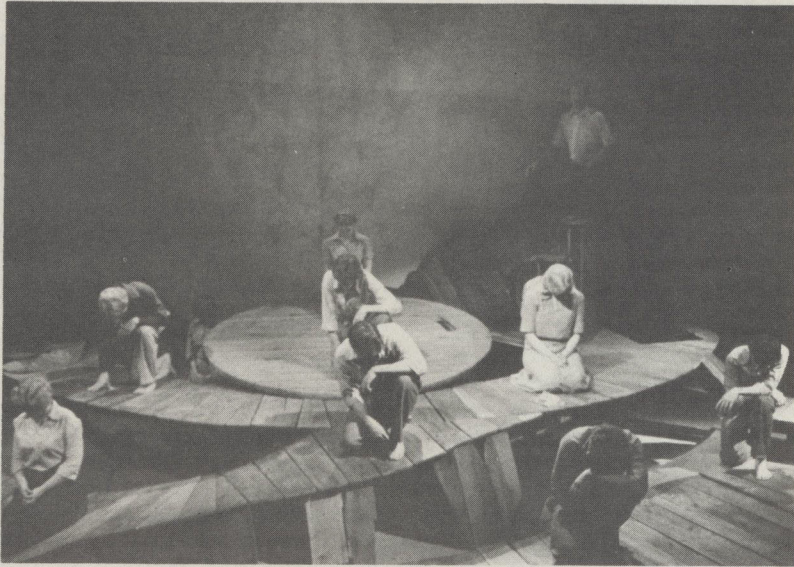
Two friends of the college have irrevocably designated Dordt College, along with other institutions, as the co-owners of their house after the death of the surviving spouse. Even though both spouses can enjoy lifetime use of the house, they received a large charitable deduction on their 1979 income tax return, and will experience an estate tax deduction for this beautiful gift.

In recent weeks, six families have indicated to us that they have a charitable bequest for the college in their will.

Since November, five individuals have established charitable trusts which will pay income to their children and/or grandchildren and at the same time save income and estate tax. These trusts have been funded with assets such as cash, stock, and grain.



## Purpaleanie Stirs Memories Among Audience, Wins Recognition From Theatre Peers



A scene from "Calvinist Farming," one of the "permutations" of *Purpaleanie*

It is difficult to describe the phenomena of *Purpaleanie* to one who has not experienced it. Perhaps the word itself, "purpaleanie" is the most adequate description that this theatre production could be given.

This work has its origin in the very soil of Northwest Iowa. A transplanted farmer named Stanley Wiersma (who is now a professor of English at Calvin College) wrote down impressions of his life on a farm near Middleburg, Iowa after being in Grand Rapids for many years. The result, penned under the name of Sietze Buning, was *Purpaleanie and Other Permutations*, a book of affectionate and thoughtful poems about the Dutch Calvinist immigrants.

Verne Meyer, assistant professor of Theatre Arts at Dordt, undertook the task of arranging and adapting this book into a theatre production. *Purpaleanie* began as experimental theatre in the spring of 1979 and has blossomed considerably since then.

It was performed at Dordt again in late November and early December of 1979 and once again left many in the audience wistful and nostalgic. The series of poems is woven together by strands of psalms and hymns and by "purpaleanie." All the earmarks of the Dutch Calvinist heritage are here as seen through the eyes of one well-meaning poet: the public confession of adultery, the Sunday dinner, the catechism classes, and even the Christian Reformed view of farming—in checkerboard, neat and orderly like Creation itself. There are also incidents that are out-of-the-ordinary, but so much the epitome of this lifestyle that they can scarcely not be believed. For example, on old

Uncle Evert's birthday, Sietze is hurriedly sent to buy a book, ANY book, in Dutch for a gift. He returns with Wielenga's *Exposition of the Marriage Form*. And then there is the time that Sietze responds to the domine's catechism question with "I don't care" and is soundly reprimanded for it. How many times haven't we as children heard the same sermon? During Christmas vacation, the *Purpaleanie* company toured, performing in Pella, Iowa and the Chicago area; they also put on six performances in the Gezon Theatre at Calvin College in Grand Rapids.

The success of this production in no wise rests solely upon the reminiscence it affords the primarily Dutch audience. The superb acting and staging have won Dordt the honor of being named the showcase production in the American College Theatre Festival. In our region, which includes Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Dordt has been ranked with such outstanding schools as University of Iowa, Drake University, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Kansas State.

Although *Purpaleanie* is only one man's feelings about the Dutch Calvinists and provides us with opinions not answers, it is a promising sign. As one viewer commented: "Very little is done in terms of Christian theatre and this play represented a step in the right direction. *Purpaleanie* as a play, like the poetry, provided a means for us to reflect on our own Christian lives . . . . Certainly the Reformed community is richer because of it."

Perhaps the most succinct tribute to the cast and crew is this viewer's comment: "I looked at my watch once—at the end."

## 'OPERATION CAMBODIA' PROMOTES CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

When Dordt resumed classes after Thanksgiving break, the students were well-rested and very well-fed; but rather than taking such blessings for granted, many of the students became involved in a hunger drive to raise money for those in Cambodia who have never taken food for granted.

The students were kept well-informed about the Cambodian situation. They were supplied with facts and figures about the weight and price of grain from UNICEF in New York City. CRWRC was contacted and referred the students to the Church World Service, headquartered in Elkhart, Indiana. This organization sent weekly updates in newsletter form about the current Cambodia situation from their correspondent there.

A campus-wide and city-wide campaign followed to make the public aware of the coming hunger drive. Public service announcements and interviews were aired on KDCR, one chapel service was dedicated to concern for the hungry, bulletin announcements and campus representatives were given space and time in the local churches, posters were put up, and flyers were sent out to the rural community.

On December 3, Operation Cambodia was put into action. Two hundred-fifty volunteers canvassed Sioux Center which had been equally divided into twenty-two sections. Donations of money were requested and these were collected by the Business Office into a general fund so that one check could be written.

The project, organized by junior James Deters, was sponsored by the Student Forum as a campus project and backed by the administration with their official sanction. The result was a check for \$5,850.00 that was sent to the Church World Service.

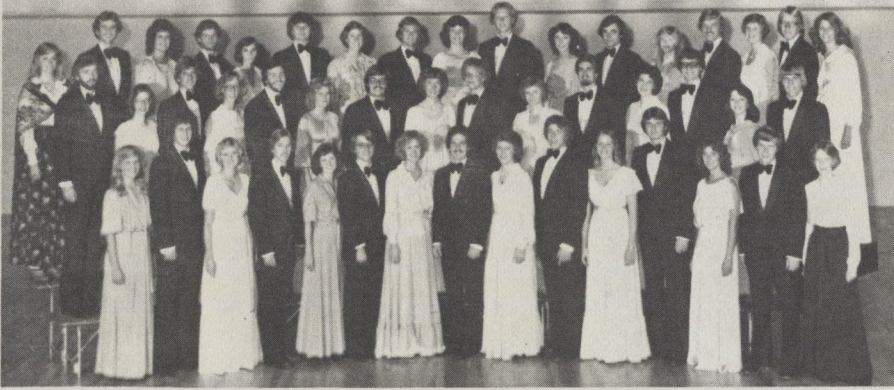
Perhaps the spirit of Operation Cambodia was best summed up in the letter that accompanied the check: "We are not doing this in an attempt to bring glory to ourselves or our students. We wish only to show gratitude to God for His grace in our lives by assisting the needy in His Name. Please accept our contribution in that spirit."

Instead of merely voicing their concern for the hungry, students were given a concrete opportunity to show their Christian love. They gave up their free time and many donated gifts of money.

The Dordt College student body is grateful for this opportunity to exercise Christian stewardship and to express thanksgiving for blessings received.



## Concert Choir Plans Spring Tour



The 1980 Dordt College Concert Choir

The 1980 Dordt College Concert Choir will be touring during spring break once again. The choir plans on performing in many churches in the rural Midwest, as well as many in the Denver area (see itinerary). Featured on this year's concert program will be pieces by such composers as Mendelssohn, Palestrina, Bruckner and Faure, as well as some more contemporary works by Medema, Beebe, Copland and Hovland.

### Concert Choir Itinerary

Thurs., March 20—Sutton, NB; Fri., March 21—Fort Collins, CO; Sat., March 22—Boulder, CO; Sun., March 23—Denver, CO (2 concerts); Mon., March 24—Denver Christian High Sch. assembly, Colorado Springs, CO; Tues., March 25—Luctor, KS; Wed., March 26—Columbia, MO; Thurs., March 27—St. Louis, MO; Fri., March 28—Wellsburg, IA; Sat., March 29—Newton, IA; Sun., March 30—Des Moines, IA, Pella, IA; Mon., March 31—Pella Christian High Sch. assembly

## LIVE LANGUAGE LAB SUCCESSFUL

Last year, Foreign Language professors K.J. Boot and William Stronks visited Central College in Pella to observe a new idea—the “live language lab”—being put into practice. This year, with many changes and revisions, the live language lab has become reality at Dordt.

Ordinary language labs are equipped with headsets so the beginning student can hear himself speak the language. This aids in the detection of speech and pronunciation errors and also gives the student necessary practice. However, the tapes of sentences with appropriate pauses for student response which are currently used are frequently ineffective after awhile. The student gets bored easily and tends to think the drills are unimportant. Skipping lab sessions becomes easier and easier.

The live language lab uses advanced students as the “tapes,” and this has made a big difference. “The students see that other students can do it too. It's not just those ‘smart-aleck’ professors who know the language,” said Professor Boot.

Boot also feels that this program, which is used in the 102 language courses only, acts as an incentive to the 101 students and gives them something to work for, a reason to continue with their language study, rather than dropping out after a year as some discouraged language students have done.

Part of the success of this program Boot attributes to the scheduling. The groups only meet for one half-hour twice a week. At Central, the groups met for an hour

and used more visual aids such as flash cards and foreign language Scrabble games. Boot feels the shorter period makes for more intense concentration on the part of the students. They work solely on drills, sentences and patterns since such practice is vital to language learning. Any grammar or structure studies are covered in the classroom. Because of the half-hour period, the students are willing to buckle down in the short time that they are allowed. The realization that certain things must be covered in each time period often stimulates the student's ambition.

The student helpers are assets to the program as well. They frequently can provide a different outlook or approach from a student's point of view that the professors have missed; the assistants can use these sessions to pass along helpful tips to other language students with problems similar to their own.

None of the helpers has an overload of students and so there is always enough free time to tutor any student with particular difficulties. The helpers are all work-study students who are experienced in the language, and each conducts three groups with three or four students per group.

The live language lab has been very successful so far. Last semester, it was conducted only in Dutch, but this semester the Language Department has added German and Spanish lab sessions as well. Said Boot: “When I look at test results, I feel that the kids are learning better and that there is more interest.”

## Newsbriefs

### Art Department Receives Donation

The Art Department is pleased to report it has been the recipient of approximately one thousand dollars worth of new photography and print-making equipment. These are pieces of equipment they would not normally acquire. The donors wish to remain anonymous, but the department wishes to publicly express its thanks and appreciation.

### Maatman Book Translated

Dr. Russell Maatman's first book, *The Bible, Natural Science, and Evolution*, published in 1970, has recently appeared in the Korean language. It was translated by Hwang Chang Gy and published by the Korean Society for the Reformed Faith and Action. The book was called to the attention of this society by Orthodox Presbyterian missionaries in Korea. Dr. Maatman is Professor of Chemistry at Dordt.

### Dordt Blades Tour

During Christmas break, Dordt's hockey team, the Blades, toured east. They played various church leagues in Ontario and also competed against Calvin College. On tour they won six of their games and lost two, bringing their season record to a total of ten wins and three losses.

### Defenders Have Exciting Season

The Dordt Men's Basketball team provided a lot of excitement for the fans during the 1979-1980 season. Several of the games were decided by one or two points. The team perhaps played its best game at home against Northwestern. The gymnasium was packed with fans of both schools and the rivalry was intense, but Dordt defeated the Red Raiders by a score of 74-70. This young team had only two seniors so next year's season looks promising.

Coach Rick Vander Berg commented on his team's performance: “The competition has been excellent this year and no one in this area has an outstanding win-loss record. But that doesn't mean that there hasn't been some very fine basketball played.”